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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2404
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2416
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1639
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8594
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0883
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2855
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0398

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 002844

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/23/2031

TAGS: PHUM AS NZ JA

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON UN DECLARATION ON
THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

REF: STATE 078740

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor W. Michael Meserve. Reason
s:1.4(b/d).

¶1. (U) On May 23, Embassy Tokyo political officer joined Embassy of New Zealand Deputy Head of Mission Michelle Slade and Embassy of Australia First Secretary Catherine Wallace in delivering a joint demarche to MOFA Global Issues Department Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division Director Tetsuya Kimura concerning the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Led, as instructed, by New Zealand's Slade, the tripartite delegation conveyed reftel talking points and provided Kimura with copies of relevant documents.

¶2. (U) Kimura undertook to study the issue and to relay U.S., Australian and New Zealand concerns to appropriate MOFA and other agency officials. He promised shortly to provide a Japanese government response. Kimura offered his opinion that the subject text should be adopted on a consensus basis and that the concerned governments should proceed cautiously.

¶3. (C) Taking advantage of the opportunity to discuss the Human Rights Council, Kimura stated that while Japan wanted to begin substantive discussions as soon as possible, the Japanese government also believed there should be a concrete discussion on the Council's working methods in order to establish a "road map" for the organization's deliberations. Japan is particularly interested in beginning discussions of serious violations of human rights, especially North Korean violations, at an early date. In that context, Kimura noted that Japan would also use other fora, such as the Third Committee in New York, for discussing North Korean and other serious human rights violations.

¶4. (C) Kimura highlighted the need to discuss in the Human Rights Council the issue of extending the mandates of Special Rapporteurs. He stressed that "continuity" was an important consideration for Japan.

SCHIEFFER